United Nations A/C.2/54/L.59

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
30 November 1999

Original: English

Fifty-fourth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 100 (a)
Environment and sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Daúl Matute (Peru), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.22

Enhancing complementarities among international instruments related to environment and sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21[1] adopted at its nineteenth special session, in particular part IV thereof, entitled "International institutional arrangements",

Recalling also its resolutions 53/186 of 15 December 1998, entitled "International institutional arrangements related to environment and development", and 53/242 of 28 July 1999, entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements",

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on international institutional arrangements related to environment and development,[2]

Noting decision 20/28, entitled "Promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs", adopted on 4 February 1999 by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,[3]

Emphasizing that policy decisions under the respective conventions are taken by the conferences of the parties, which are autonomous governing bodies,

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[1] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[2] A/54/468.

[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/54/25), annex.

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Noting that various conventions related to environment and sustainable development are at different stages of implementation, and recognizing the role of the General Assembly in fostering progress in the implementation of environmental and environment-related conventions and of commitments contained therein,

Taking note with appreciation of the relevant ongoing work on the implementation of environmental and environment-related conventions at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels,

Reaffirming the need, as stipulated in part IV of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, for greater coherence in various intergovernmental organizations and processes through better policy coordination at the intergovernmental level, as well as for continued and more concerted efforts to enhance collaboration among the secretariats of relevant decision-making bodies,

Emphasizing the need for environmental conventions to continue to pursue sustainable development objectives that are consistent with their provisions and to be fully responsive to Agenda 21,[4]

1. *Encourages* the conferences of the parties to and the permanent secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, further to examine appropriate opportunities and measures to strengthen their complementarities and to improve scientific assessments of ecological linkages among the three conventions;

2. *Stresses* the need for the integrated consideration of linkages, both among sectors and between sectoral and cross-sectoral aspects of Agenda 21;[4]

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of facilitating and supporting the enhancement of linkages and coordination within and among environmental and environment-related conventions, including by the United Nations Environment Programme, with full respect for the status of the secretariats of the conventions and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention concerned and, in this regard, supports the proposal of the Secretary-General concerning the establishment of an environmental management group for the purpose of enhancing inter-agency coordination in the areas of environment and human settlements, as stipulated in General Assembly resolution 53/242;

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of all the progress made in the implementation of its resolution 53/186;

5. *Encourages* the secretariats of the various environmental and environment-related conventions and international organizations, with full respect for the status of the secretariats of the conventions and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention concerned, to strengthen cooperation with a view to facilitating progress in the implementation of those conventions at the international, regional and national levels by:

(a) Identifying opportunities for complementarity of activities undertaken to facilitate implementation of commitments made by the parties to the various conventions;

[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

(b) Encouraging the carrying out of further scientific analyses by relevant international organizations, such as the United Nations Environment Programme, the secretariats of the conventions, their subsidiary bodies, the United Nations Secretariat and relevant international scientific bodies, to identify possible activities with potential multiple benefits and to bring them to the attention of the conferences of the parties;

(c) Promoting more effective and coherent support from international organizations and financial institutions and mechanisms for national action aimed at the implementation of the conventions, in particular, in the area of capacity-building;

(d) Addressing practical issues, such as more effective exchange of information, enhanced awareness-raising and streamlining of national reporting;

(e) Supporting, upon request, efforts being made at the national level towards adopting an integrated and holistic approach to the implementation of environmental and environment-related conventions;

(f) Bringing relevant issues to the attention of the General Assembly and relevant intergovernmental bodies for the consideration of Member States and the formulation of agreed policy recommendations with a view to promoting a more holistic approach;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the executive secretaries of the conventions, to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to submit it the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session for further consideration.